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FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1680, OCTOBER 5, 7 PM

Control: 4845

Rec'd: OCTOBER 5, 1962
6:45 PM

EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED CONTENTS TOPOL 457 WITH SPITALIER, CUBAN DESK OFFICER, FONMINISTRY, WHO HAD ALREADY RECEIVED REQUEST FOR INSTRUCTION THIS SUBJECT FROM FRENCH EMB WASHINGTON. SPITALIER CHARACTERIZED PROPOSED USG ACTION AS EXTREMELY TOUGH, BUT PROBABLY EFFECTIVE, ADDING FRENCH BELIEVED ONLY TOUGH MEASURES COULD BE SUCCESSFUL NOW. SAID OFFICIAL FRENCH POSITION WOULD BE DEFINED IN NEAR FUTURE, ADDING IT WOULD REQUIRE "MUCH REFLECTION" IN ORDER WEIGH POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES EACH US ACTION ON FRENCH SHIPPING. SAID NO MAIN FRENCH SHIPPING CONCERNS NOW MAINTAIN LINES TO CUBA, AND THAT NO FRENCH SHIPS HAD RECENTLY CALLED AT CUBAN PORTS. HOWEVER, ADDED THAT FRENCH WHALER, MATAUBA (PHONETIC) NOW EN ROUTE CUBA FROM EAST GERMANY WITH 1000 TON CARGO POTATOES.

COMMENT: WHILE FRENCH MAY EXPRESS SOME RESERVATIONS ON US ACTION, THEY WILL PROBABLY ON WHOLE BE ACCOMODATING SINCE (1) FRENCH SHIPPING AND COMMERCE WITH CUBA MINIMAL, THUS THEIR INTERESTS NOT DIRECTLY AFFECTED, AND (2) FRENCH FULLY AWARE AND SERIOUSLY CONCERNED DANGERS CASTRO SUBVERSION AND PENETRATION IN CARIBBEAN AREA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY

DATE

1/2/78

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CJ/21

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW FOR

Date: 4/8/82

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